

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 COA-02 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /145 W  
----- 103585

R 040440 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1165

UNCLAS SAIGON 07787

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM NHA TRANG 0460 SENT ACTION SAIGON  
AND INFO TAIPEI AND ARRO PHAN THIET ON MAY 3, 73

IS REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS NHA TRANG 0460

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS TS VS

SUBJECT: FIRST TEST IN MR 2 OF GVN DECREE- LAW 56 EXTENDING  
TERRITORIAL FISHING LIMITS

1. DECREE- LAW 56, EXTENDING RVN TERRITORIAL FISHING WATERS  
FROM 12 TO 50 NAUTICAL MILES ( NM) WAS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT THIEU  
DEC 12, 1972 AND PROMULGATED BY FISHERIES BUREAU FEB 21, 1973.  
DECREE- LAW MET WHAT WE BELIEVE WAS FIRST TEST IN REGION II  
APRIL 24, WHEN TWO 40- TON REPUBLIC OF CHINA ( ROC) FISHING  
BOATS, CHENG FU'S 11 & 12, WERE APPREHENDED BY TVN NAVY  
PATROL AT POSITION DESCRIBED AS 109 DEGREE 015 E, 10 DEGREE  
40 N ( BM 84.81). ABOUT THIRTY KMS NE OF PHU QUY ISLAND.  
BOATS TAKEN IN CUSTODY AND BROUGHT TO PHAN THIET OUTER  
HARBOR WHERE PLACED UNDER JURISDICTION PROVINCIAL FISHERIES  
OFFICE AS PROVIDED IN DECREE- LAW. CARGO, ABOUT 5 MT FROZEN  
FISH, AND NETS IMPOUNDED REPORTEDLY TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC  
AUCTION MAY 4. TWO CAPTAINS " GUESTS" OF FISHERIES OFFICE  
CHIEF WHILE CREWS REMAIN ON BOARD BOATS.

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2. PHAN THIET AUTHORITIES SEEM SOMEWHAT PUZZLED RE HOW TO PROCEED OTHER THAN TO SEIZE CATCH AND NETS. DECREE- LAW PROVIDES AS PENALTIES FOR OFFENDING VESSELS UNDER 50 TONS ( A ) FINE OF 6,000,000\$ VN (\$12,371EARTED ABOUT EXPANDING U. S. EXPORTS TO KOREA. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GROUP INDICATED THAT THEIR U. S. OFFICES HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED DEEP INTEREST IN MISSION AND WERE FULLY PREPARED TO COOPERATE. FINALLY, CHAMBER OFFICIALS FEEL THAT OBVIOUSLY STRENUOUS PREPARATORY EFFORT ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY MCI HAS GENERATED ENTHUSIASTIC KOREAN ANTICIPATION WHICH WOULD BE HARD TO REKINDLE SHOULD THERE BE DEFERRAL. THUS IF MISSION DELAYED UNTIL SEPTEMBER, SENSE OF URGENCY WOULD EVAPORATE FROM MCI AND MISSION WILL RECEIVE MUCH LOWER PRIORITY IN KOREAN MINDS.

4. AS RESULT OUR MOST RECENT MEETING WITH MCI OFFICIALS, EMBASSY CONVINCED THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS BEING MADE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICAL SHOPPING LIST. MCI HAS NOW IDENTIFIED 184 ITEMS THAT KOREA IMPORTED IN 1972 IN AMOUNTS OVER \$1 MILLION WHERE SOME POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR SHIFT TO U. S. FROM OTHER SOURCES OR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED U. S. PURCHASE MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

AS FURTHER INDICATION OF GOOD FAITH, MCI CONSIDERING MOVING IMPORT RESTRICTED ITEMS ON LIST TO AUTOMATIC IMPORT APPROVAL. WHILE LIST IS STILL

ROUGH AND IN NEED OF REVISION, IT IS EVIDENCE OF ROKG EFFORTS TO COMPLETE PLANNING PROCESS IN TIME FOR EARLY JUNE DEPARTURE DATE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION. FURTHERMORE, MCI ASSURES US THAT MISSION WILL MOSTLY BE COMPOSED OF BUSINESSMEN WHO WOULD BE PREPARED TO BUY. MISSION OUTLINE PREPARED BY MCI FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY, MAY 7 AND WILL BE GLAD TO DISCUSS PURCHASING MISSION WITH COMMERCE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

5. WHILE WE REALIZE THERE MAY BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MAKE IT NECESSARY TO RESCHEDULE THE BUYING MISSION FOR SEPTEMBER, THE EMBASSY IS IMPRESSED WITH THE ARGUMENTS SET FORTH ABOVE FOR RETENTION OF THE JUNE VISIT DATE. CONSEQUENTLY WE RECOMMEND COMMERCE GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPTANCE  
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OR THE ROKG TRADE INITIATIVE ON THE DATES THEY AND THE AMERICAN CHAMBER STRONGLY PREFER.  
UNDERHILL

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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